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News Release ~ Communiqué

Minister Dupuy selects top Canadian youth projects for awards

OTTAWA, May 8, 1995 - The Honourable Michel Dupuy, Minister of Canadian Heritage, has nominated three innovative Canadian youth projects for the Commonwealth Youth Service Awards because they represent "a shining example of how youth can reach out to youth to encourage a healthy, positive lifestyle."

These are Opération Recyclage de Papier of Dieppe, New Brunswick; Canada's PRIDE: Drug-Free Youth Movement of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, and Carrefour Jeunacte, of Loretteville, Quebec. They were among the 20 outstanding youth projects that were considered from all parts of the country.

Minister Dupuy wrote to the winners that their projects show how "concerted action by young people can have a far-reaching effect through the sharing of knowledge and skills."

Opération Recyclage de Papier founded a paper recycling company to sell recycled newsprint to a company in Moncton which was considering moving to the U.S. because of newsprint shortage. By providing the company with newsprint regularly, the students saved jobs in Canada, promoted recycling and helped the environment.

Canada's Pride: Drug-Free Youth Movement is the largest youth network in drug prevention in Canada, with 1,500 - 2,000 students directly involved through more than 70 youth teams in all parts of the country. The organization trains youth and parents, sponsors an annual national conference on youth and drugs, operates a national toll-free line, publishes a bi-monthly newsletter for youth and parents and constantly improves its drug-prevention strategies.

Carrefour Jeunacte owns and manages a restaurant where unemployed young people 15- to 30-years-old can acquire work experience and develop work skills. Every year about 45 youth acquire long-term experience and 100 short-term experience. Profits from the restaurant are ploughed back into the project.

Mr. Dupuy also commended the leaders of the 17 other youth projects that were considered for the "exceptional quality" of their work. He wrote to them saying that he was pleased that so many young Canadians are working enthusiastically to improve their communities.

The Department of Canadian Heritage has forwarded the names of the winners to the Commonwealth Youth Program which receives submissions from all Commonwealth countries. Winners will be announced at the Commonwealth Youth Ministers' Conference in May. They will receive a certificate, commemorative medallions and a cash award of one thousand pounds sterling (\$2,000 Canadian) as an incentive to increase their projects' effectiveness and range.

Since the program was initiated in 1985, 40 projects from 18 countries have received the Commonwealth Youth Service Awards. Canada has received the award five times.

The three projects chosen this year as Canada's entries were among the 20 projects that were submitted to the Department of Canadian Heritage by youth groups from all parts of the country.

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